

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-18 are currently before the Examiner. Claim 1 is currently amended.

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by de la Mare et al. (EP 0083813). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

De la Mare et al., do not anticipate, teach or suggest a process for preparing a resin coating article comprising contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition comprising an epoxy resin, a curing agent, and an alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound with enhanced thermal properties, wherein the curing agent is a dicyandiamide or a melamine and the contacting occurs by a contacting method.

Specifically, the office action states that De la Mare et al. discloses a composition comprising an epoxy compound, a curing amount of at least one amino compound containing at least three amino hydrogen atoms per molecule and a catalytic amount of a Group I or Group II metal salt.

In response, applicants state that the amino compounds taught by De la Mare et al. differ from the curing agents of the present invention. The amino compounds taught by De la Mare et al., are regular aliphatic amine compounds that are basic in nature and therefore not accelerated by basic alkali metal containing cure accelerators. De la Mare et al. do not teach or suggest amino compounds similar to the curing agents of the present invention, dicyandiamide and melamine, nor do they teach or suggest amine compounds that are acidic. The acidity of the amine groups in dicyandiamide and melamine permits them to be accelerated by basic alkali metal containing compounds.

Applicants herewith submit a Declaration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, from Larry Steven Corley, an inventor named in the present invention, stating that the process of the present invention is different from that of De la Mare et al. and such differences are attributable to the present invention's ability to use acidic dicyandiamide and melamine with basic alkali metal containing compounds as accelerators.

Additionally, De la Mare et al. only teach producing an epoxy composition for a reaction injection molding system to produce molded formed articles. Reaction injection molding is not a process for preparing a resin coated article by a contacting method as required by applicants' present invention.

The present invention teaches a process for preparing a resin coating article, by a contacting method, comprising a substrate and an epoxy resin. Applicable contacting methods, as described in the detailed description, include powder coating, spray coating, die coating, roll coating, resin infusion process, and contacting the article with a bath containing the composition.

Claims 1-4, 14, 16, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shomer (US Pat. No. 5,958,593). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shomer does not anticipate, teach or suggest a process for preparing a resin coating article comprising contacting a substrate with an accelerated resin composition comprising an epoxy resin, a curing agent, and an alkali metal containing cure accelerator compound with enhanced thermal properties, wherein the curing agent is a dicyandiamide or a melamine and the contacting occurs by a contacting method.

Specifically, the office action states that Shomer discloses a hardener for an epoxy resin, wherein the hardener comprises at least one amine selected from trimethylhexamethylenediamine and isophoronediamine and at least one inorganic salt which contains a nitrate ion.

In response, applicants state that amine compounds taught by Shomer differ from the curing agents of the present invention. The amine compounds taught by Shomer are regular

aliphatic or aromatic amine compounds that are basic in nature and therefore not accelerated by basic alkali metal containing cure accelerators. Shomer does not teach or suggest amino compounds similar to the curing agents of the present invention, dicyandiamide and melamine, nor do they teach or suggest amine compounds that are acidic. The acidity of the amine groups in dicyandiamide and melamine permits them to be accelerated by basic alkali metal containing compounds.

Applicants herewith submit a Declaration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, from Larry Steven Corley, an inventor named in the present invention, stating that the process of the present invention is different from that of Shomer and such differences are attributable to the present invention's ability to use acidic dicyandiamide and melamine with basic alkali metal containing compounds as accelerators.

Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by De la Mare et al. (EP 0083813). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Referring to the discussion above and to the declaration, the process of the present invention differs from that of De la Mare et al., in that the acidic curing agents of dicyandiamide and melamine are not taught or suggested. Applicants respectfully state that claims 12 and 13 are dependent upon independent claim 1 and include all the limitations, therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Shomer (US Pat. No. 5,958,593). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Referring to the discussion above and to the declaration, the process of the present invention differs from that of Shomer in that the acidic curing agents of dicyandiamide and melamine are not taught or suggested. Applicants respectfully state that claim 5 is dependent upon independent claim 1 and includes all the limitations, therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or requires additional information, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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